



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

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February 2, 2006

Chairman Richard Compton
Idaho Senate, Health and Welfare Committee
Idaho State Legislature
State Capitol Building
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0081

Dear Chairman Compton:

The Department of Health and Welfare would like to amend our proposal of Rule Docket 16-0322-0502, Residential Care or Assisted Living Facilities in Idaho to reflect the following changes and commitments:

1. We propose to delete the text in red at attachment 1. These changes were negotiated with leadership from the Idaho Assisted Living Association.
2. The Department commits to promulgating a temporary rule, at the first window of opportunity, to modify the requirement at Section 152, Admissions Policies; paragraph 5. Policies of Acceptable Admissions; subparagraph g.

The text current reads: "Residents who are not capable of self evacuation must not be admitted or retained by a facility which does not comply with NFPA Standard #101. "Life Safety Code, 2000 Edition, Chapter 33, Existing Residential Board and Care Impracticable Evacuation Capability."

The Department will, through negotiated rule making, promulgate a new temporary rule that extends the present "grandfathering clause" for existing facilities licensed prior to July 1, 1992. That extension will have a date certain sunset of July 1, 2010. The intent of this rule will be that effective July 1, 2010, all facilities accepting residents incapable of self evacuation will have a sprinkler system installed.

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3. The Department also commits to help identify financial assistance programs to help assisted living providers fund and install the required sprinkler systems. This assistance could include grants, low-interest loan programs, and/or other financial programs.

The Department appreciates the Committee's willingness to work with interested stakeholders to help protect the health and safety of Idaho citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy May".

Randy May
Deputy Administrator
Idaho Medicaid

RM/nm
Attachment